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Alleged Spy Reportedly Sought a 2d Sensitive Post

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 22 — A former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency who is being investigated for allegedly attempting to infiltrate the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence as a spy for the Soviet Union also tried to obtain a job with the House Intelligence Committee, Congressional officials said today.

The former agent, identified as David H. Barnett, applied for a job with the House committee in 1977, according to committee officials. They said that Mr. Barnett's application was routinely filed and that he was not considered for employment.

Justice Department officials said they believe that Mr. Barnett accepted nearly \$100,000 from the K.G.B., the Soviet intelligence service, in return for trying to get a job with the Senate committee to gain access to the highly sensitive Government intelligence information available to members of the committee staff.

Senator Strom Thurmond, Republican of South Carolina, the ranking minority member of the Judiciary Committee, charged today that the Central Intelligence Agency "resisted" prosecution of Mr. Barnett for "a year or longer." He also accused Attorney General Benjamin

R. Civiletti of "yielding" to pressure from the intelligence agency to delay action on the case.

Mr. Thurmond's charges were similar to allegations made in private in recent days by Republican politicians and officials, who appeared to be seeking to use the Barnett case to embarrass the Carter Administration in the final days of the Presidential election campaign.

Federal law-enforcement officials have acknowledged that the intelligence agency was reluctant to prosecute Mr. Barnett because agency officials hoped to turn him into a triple agent. Failing that, those sources said, the agency hoped that the Barnett matter could be handled through court action without public disclosure.

Mr. Barnett could not be reached for comment today. Federal officials said that his case could be resolved by the end of the week. They said that a Federal grand jury in Baltimore had been considering the case.

Friends and former associates of Mr. Barnett provided further details today about his career with the Central Intelligence Agency and the financial difficulties that Federal officials said might have led Mr. Barnett to accept money from the Soviet agency.

Friends of Mr. Barnett said that he

served as a covert agent of the C.I.A. in Surabaya, Indonesia, in the 1960's. In 1969 he returned to Washington, apparently retired from the intelligence agency, and later took a job as a school teacher in Pennsylvania.

In the early 1970's, they said, Mr. Barnett and his family returned to Surabaya, where he tried to establish an import-export business dealing with handicrafts and antiques. But the business failed, they said, and he went to work as manager of a shrimp processing factory.

"We were never certain that David had severed his ties to the C.I.A.," a friend said. Mr. Barnett again returned to Washington in 1977. By that time, according to officials, he had already developed ties to the K.G.B.

Officials contend that his mission was to penetrate a high-level American intelligence agency on behalf of the Soviet agency. They said that he attempted to carry out that mission by applying for jobs with both the Senate and House intelligence committees, as well as with the Intelligence Oversight Board, an executive branch committee that oversees the intelligence community.